

ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE.



VOL. I. No. 10.

FORT PIERCE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1905.

1.00 A YEAR

OCCUPATION LICENSE TAX

Several Additions Made to the State List for this County.

NEW OFFICE FOR CLERK

Commissioners Give Contract for Building to Franklin Bros. — Other Business at Special Meeting.

Pursuant to call of chairman the board of county commissioners met at 9 a. m., September 20, 1905 to levy license taxes for the ensuing year and attend to such other matters as might come before them. Present, W. R. Hardee, chairman, J. F. Bell, K. B. Raulerson, R. D. Holmes and P. Kroegel; R. W. Lennard sheriff, J. E. Fultz clerk.

On motion the following resolution was passed:

Whereas, this board of county commissioners have been petitioned by the principal property holders of Jensen, St. Lucie county Florida to have certain trespassers moved from the riparian rights at the foot of Commercial street in said town: Therefore be it resolved, that Hon. W. H. Ellis, attorney general of the state of Florida is most respectfully requested to file an information in chancery in the circuit court of St. Lucie county Florida against C. S. Schuyler, E. J. Ricou and the trustees of the Planters' Wharf association at Jensen Florida, George Baker, G. E. Coon and C. H. Racy to remove the annoyance and obstruction on the riparian rights to Commercial street at Jensen, on Lot 1, section 22, township 37 south, range 41 east, and the clerk of this board is instructed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution.

On motion the board adjourned to meet at 1 p. m.

Board met at 1 p. m. with all members, clerk and sheriff present. The following order was adopted:

It is ordered by the county commissioners that no person shall engage in or manage any business, profession or occupation within St. Lucie county upon which a state license tax is imposed by the provisions of chapter 5106 of the laws of Florida, and subsequent amendments thereto; unless a county license shall have been procured from the tax collector, which license shall be issued in the same manner as state licenses are issued and the tax collector shall in each case collect an amount equal to fifty per cent of the amount of the state license tax for such business, profession or occupation as fixed by said chapter (5106) of the laws of Florida and subsequent amendments thereto, and it is further ordered that no person shall engage in any business, profession or occupation hereinafter mentioned, without first procuring a license therefor and paying to the tax collector the several amounts indicated below, as follows:

Agents and solicitors of industrial and mutual benefit and other insurance \$2.50.
Agents of manufacturers \$5.00.
Barber shops—one chair, \$2.50 and \$1.00 for each additional chair.
All boats used by dealers or others for catching or handling fish for profit and launches used for hire \$1.00 per boat.
All dealers who ship oysters \$10.00.
Bakers—one wagon \$2.00 two wagons \$3.00, three or more wagons \$5.00 no wagon \$2.00.
Bottling works \$10.00.
Contractors \$2.50.
Lumber dealers or agents \$20.00.
Merchant tailors \$5.00.
Manufacturers of artificial stone or building blocks \$5.00.
Dealers in naval stores or agents \$5.00.
Optician or oculist \$2.00.
Growing balls or other missiles at \$2.00 or heads \$2.00.
Undertakers \$10.00.
Woodyards \$2.00.
All butchers who kill cattle and hogs for market \$15.00 for each place of business.

On motion, the opinion of F. M. Hudson, legal advisor for the board regarding the duties of tax assessor was received and filed.

On motion board adjourned to meet at 8 a. m., September 21.

Board met 8 a. m., September 21, all present except K. B. Raulerson who had been excused.

On motion, salary of F. M. Hudson legal advisor for the board of county commissioners was fixed at \$100.00 for the ensuing year; services to date from July 1, 1905.

On motion, J. A. and Geo. Franklin, constituting the firm of Franklin Bros., are empowered to erect a building for county clerk and tax collector's office at \$3 per diem, each. Said Franklin Bros. to employ such other assistants as may be necessary in the erection of building. The material for the erection of building to be furnished by county, but to be bought by the Franklin Bros., said material to be class in every respect and at the same price at which such materials are purchased in the open markets; prices to be approved by John H.

Wynn as supervisor of such building, who is appointed by the board of county commissioners. The execution of work in the erection of said building to be first class in every respect and subject to the approval of said supervisor and final approval and acceptance of the county commissioners. The building to be completed as per plans and specifications on file, said building to be erected on the property heretofore specified as offered by the town of Fort Pierce to St. Lucie county.

On motion, an agreement was entered into between F. M. Tyler and the board of county commissioners securing unto the County of St. Lucie a certain tract of land under certain conditions, which is on file with the clerk of the circuit court.

On motion, board adjourned to meet on first Monday in October at 10 a. m.

Improvement Club's Building.

Work on the foundations of the Fort Pierce Improvement club building is progressing rapidly, and the piers will all be finished by the end of the week. A corner stone has been prepared with the date "1905" chiseled upon its surface and it will be laid with appropriate ceremonies by the ladies of the club, Saturday morning. Various memorials of the occasion will be blocked up in the solid masonry. The carpenters are expected to begin work next week, but as yet the contract has not been awarded.

IMPORTANT CASE IS SETTLED IN BREVARD

In the case of Mary Sanchez vs. Wm. M. Dallam, et. al., bill for partition of the Spanish grant, known as the Segui grant, involving 160 acres of land lying north of Titusville, which has been pending about three years in the Brevard county Circuit court, Judge Jones announced yesterday a decision that the plaintiffs may take their decree for partition. This was a hotly contested case, Judge D. L. Gauden, of Titusville, and Geo. U. Walker, of Jacksonville, represented the complainants, and A. W. Cockrell & Son, of Jacksonville, and Geo. M. Robbins, of Titusville, represented the defendants. This is a decided victory for Judge Gauden, and his friends are congratulating him on his success after his tireless efforts for years in this case.

Visitor to Town.

J. T. Padgett, of Olney, was a visitor in town this week, attending to some business matters before the county officers.

SCHOOL TERM COMMENCED

Fort Pierce High School Opened Under Favorable Auspices.

152 ENROLLED MONDAY

Number will Probably Reach 200 After the Holidays.—Excellent Corps of Teachers this Year.

The Fort Pierce public schools opened Monday with an attendance of 152, the largest in the history of the school, and the following teachers in charge:

Prof. J. R. Pomeroy, principal.

Miss Sophie Bauskett, of Hampton, Va., first assistant.

Miss Genie Harris, of Osteen, Fla., second assistant.

Mrs. Geo. Beck, nee Miss Etta Jones, of Catawba, Fla., primary.

It being impossible to get all the pupils into one room, no general opening program was attempted, each department organizing in its own way.

An assembly room, in which to conduct general exercises, is very much needed. A fourth assistant is needed also, and will be an absolute necessity in another year.

Nine full grades have been organized, this being the first time the entire work of the ninth grade, or first year of the high school, has been taken up.

The wagon from St. Lucie brings six pupils and the one from the south brings eight. It is expected that by Christmas the attendance will reach 200, a number far beyond the present seating capacity of the school building.

Professor Pomeroy is an earnest and capable instructor, understanding the requirements and peculiarities of this community thoroughly, and the fact that he has been in charge of the school here for several years bespeaks his popularity. He expresses the hope that all pupils will earnestly try to be in their places every day, for only by constant attendance can the best progress be made. A request is made that patrons of the school endeavor to have their children regular in attendance, and to take directly to the principal all complaints and suggestions.

Married in Jacksonville.

The friends of George Beck, of Fort Pierce and White City, and Miss Etta

Jones, of Catawba, who was one of the teachers in the Fort Pierce High school last year, were surprised to hear of their marriage, which occurred in Jacksonville last Saturday. The happy couple arrived in Fort Pierce last Sunday afternoon, and were met by a host of their friends, who came well supplied with rice and good wishes. They are now living at their residence on Orange avenue. Mrs. Beck is again holding the position as assistant in the high school.

Baseball Today.

A ball game will be played on the home diamond this afternoon between the Acme team of Jensen and the Fort Pierce club. It promises to be a most interesting game. The new uniforms were due to arrive last night, and the boys are eager to don them. It is hoped that a good crowd will be present to encourage the new team.

Fire at Waveland.

The residence of G. V. Bonker, at Waveland, was burned to the ground Tuesday night, the fire having started shortly before midnight. The building was unoccupied at the time, and it is thought to be the work of an incendiary.

West Palm Beach, 8; Stuart, 0.

The Stuart ball team met the West Palm Beach aggregation on the latter's stamping grounds Thursday afternoon and were defeated by a score of 8 to 0.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY'S FIRST CIRCUIT COURT

The first session of circuit court held in St. Lucie county opened Monday, with Judge Minor S. Jones, presiding, and Prosecuting Attorney John C. Jones in attendance.

Up to the time of going to press no case has been placed on trial, but it is expected that the grand jury will present their findings this morning and a case placed on trial.

The following is the grand jury:

A. M. Sample, T. J. O'Brien, G. S. Tucker, W. H. Musgrove, E. J. Traynor, W. P. Lassiter, A. B. Lowry, H. E. Crooks, Wm. Fee, Harry Jennings, clerk; W. N. Hendry, W. E. Tylander, J. G. Coats, D. L. Alderman, Lee Faber, A. Y. W. Hogg, H. A. Holmes, E. C. Summerlin, foreman.

The following have been drawn to serve on the petit jury:

R. S. Reynolds, R. Whyte, J. D. Almond, J. S. Keene, C. F. Olmstead, C. A. Robinson, J. H. LeTourneau, E. C. B. Tyndall, W. H. Harris, J. A. Alderman, L. S. S. Farnsworth, A. J. Arnold.

ABSTRACT QUESTION CREATES DISCUSSION

Reviews Abstract Question.

Indian River, Fla., Sept. 19, 1905. Editors TRIBUNE:

The question of a set of abstract books to be owned and controlled by the County of St. Lucie for the real estate in the county, is being pushed by some people, and the writer has been an interested reader of the articles written by Taxpayer, N. O. Penny, J. F. Bell and the editorial that issued from the pen of the erratic News man.

Taxpayer's idea I heartily sympathize with, for it does look as if we had to pay too much for abstracts, and for a number of years I was of the opinion that we were paying too much for these instruments, but after looking into the matter I changed my mind.

A set of abstract books cost money, either to make or buy. There is but one set in existence that is authentic; for the real estate in St. Lucie county; that is owned by the Brevard Abstract of Title Co., at Titusville. These books were originally made up in a careful manner, from the records in the clerk's office in Brevard county, the records of old St. Lucie county, which were in St. Augustine and other places, and from the U. S. Land office. These books represent a great deal of time, labor and money spent in their making originally, and keeping up to the present time. They are valued at \$5,000 and I have heard that they have been offered for that price; I know that there are several parties in St. Lucie county; that have investigated this matter thoroughly with the idea of purchasing them, but after investigation they have all come to the conclusion that the demand for abstracts would not justify the outlay, even at the prices asked now for abstracts.

The incentive that moves private parties to put their money in such investments is the income or profit accruing therefrom, and after careful consideration they have arrived at the conclusion that the actual income would not pay a careful man to keep up the books, and would not pay any interest on the investment. Had we a county with a large population, and valuable concentrated real estate interests frequently changing hands, as in Duval and other counties, then it might pay, and there might be sufficient reason for private parties or the county going into the abstract business.

I understand that there is a party in Fort Pierce now who has made an arrangement with the Brevard Abstract of Title Company to furnish abstracts

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Opposes the Project.

Wabasso, Fla., Sept. 18, 1905. Editors TRIBUNE:

It looks as though the abstract question was attracting some attention in the county, and this is as it should be. The News in its last editorials presumes that all opposition to this move for an added burden on the taxpayers comes from parties interested in the abstract business. This is positively not so, not only am I not interested in the remotest way to the abstract business, but I never expect to be, not but what it is an honorable and legitimate business, but it does not run in my line.

I stated by reasons for opposing the measure in THE TRIBUNE, and further I want to say right here that I want to know what authority the editor of the News has for saying in an editorial that it is for the best interests of the county to spend \$3,000 and more for abstracts at this time? An editor as I understand it is no more of a tax payer than any other citizen of the county with equal taxable property, and the very fact of him being an editor of a county paper should temper his statements and make him exceedingly careful of taking sides in a matter like this.

Now, I say again, I am opposed to this scheme for spending the county's money for the reason that the county cannot afford it at this time, while it is without a court house, without a jail, without a clerk's office, without a safe place to put the abstract books in if we had them—it looks absurd to advocate the idea.

I am of the opinion that no matter how large a petition is gotten up for the county to go into the abstract business, that it cannot be done in this way; that there is no warrant of law for such a proceeding, as the people have the ballot for determining such things, and I am convinced that it is the only way it can come before the people for a decision. Yours very truly,

E. A. HOLT.

[The law provides that the county commissioners may order this work undertaken upon a petition of a majority of the registered voters of the county. Chap. 5173, laws of 1903. Ed.]

Shall the County do the Abstracting?

Sebastian, Fla., Sept. 20, 1905. Editors TRIBUNE:

Shall the county do the abstracting for the people? For the reasons suggested by J. F. Bell and others, I say yes. I also say yes for the reason that

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Favors the Abstract Plan.

White City, Fla., Sept. 19, 1905. Editors TRIBUNE:

As there has been a letter published in THE TRIBUNE asking for more information on the abstract question, and as I have been writing on this question more or less, I deem it my duty and feel as if the public expected me to give them what information I can, in my humble way, of this question of abstracts. The principle facts involved in this question were given in my last two letters, but I shall briefly go over the ground again and connect what has been said with other matter which will probably make it clearer.

In the laws enacted in 1903, chapter 5173 provides: That the county commissioners in and for any county of the State may, when they deem it advisable, and upon a petition of a majority of the registered voters of the county, to have abstracted any or all instruments of writing relating to real estate situated in said county. Such abstracting is to be done by the clerk of the circuit court in and for the said county, and the clerk is to receive as his compensation \$75 per month for abstracting back records.

After the back records are abstracted the clerk's monthly salary of \$75 ceases, and he is allowed the following compensation for keeping the abstract records complete, ten cents for making record of each instrument, in abstract books, brought to his office, where said instrument does not contain more than two descriptions. Where instrument contains more than two descriptions the clerk is to receive 10 cents each for the first two descriptions and an additional fee of 3 cents for each of the other descriptions.

Section 5 of said chapter provides, that for making abstracts the clerk shall receive 50 cents for first transfer and 25 cents for each additional transfer.

Section 6 of said act provides, that upon a petition of a majority of the registered voters of any county of this State, the board of county commissioners of said county, if the said board deem it advisable, are authorized to purchase a set of abstract books for whatever price and on whatever terms the board may deem expedient.

Section 7 of said act provides, that all such abstract books shall be held under the custody of the clerk, and shall be open to examination free of cost.

I have given above what I understand the law to be on the subject,

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F. C. STETSON IS NO MORE

Unexpectedly Passed Away Wednesday Night at His Home.

DEATH DUE TO ASTHMA

Funeral will be Held this Afternoon at 3 o'clock at Eldred.—A Long, Patient Sufferer.

The citizens of Fort Pierce were shocked to learn that Frank C. Stetson had suddenly died Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock.

Mr. Stetson has been a sufferer for a year or more from asthma, and during the spring decided that a change to his old home in New York would be a benefit to his health, so, with his family, he spent several months at Stockwell and other places in New York, returning to Fort Pierce about the first of September, much improved in health. On the 3rd of this month he again took charge of the Fort Pierce passenger depot for the Florida East Coast railroad, but was compelled to forego much of the work in a few days, as his old complaint was again troubling him, and he was confined to his bed the most of last week. This week he has been feeling much better, being down to the depot every morning, and expressed his belief that with the advent of cooler weather he would soon be well again.

Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock he became much worse, the attack of asthma being so severe that Dr. Lloyd was called in several times during the day, and it was only by constant care and attention that he was enabled to breathe. This condition continued all day and until after 8 o'clock at night, when he seemed to be resting easier. About this time Mrs. Stetson arranged to retire. After placing a cot at his bedside and preparing for bed, she noticed that he was breathing much easier; upon a closer examination she could not detect that he was breathing at all, and a touch of his hand made her aware that he had departed this life. Her agonizing calls brought in the doctor and neighbors, but he had passed beyond human help.

The remains were placed in charge of the undertaking department of Fee & Stewart. The funeral service will be held at his late residence at 1:30 this afternoon, and the interment will be made in Eldred cemetery at 3 o'clock.

Frank C. Stetson was born at Stockwell, N. Y., on May 20, 1864; came to Florida nineteen years ago and lived in Jacksonville for eight years, coming to Fort Pierce eleven years ago to accept the position of station agent for the Florida East Coast railroad, which position he has held since that time. He was married in 1887, in Jacksonville, to Miss Maude Williams, who with their two children, Frank and Florence, and his father, mother and brother in Stockwell, N. Y., mourn his loss.

Mr. Stetson's long residence here has made him one of our most highly respected citizens, and the hosts of friends of the deceased join THE TRIBUNE in extending to the bereaved ones their heartfelt sympathy.

Had an Arm Broken.

Wednesday evening while Wiley Lowry was playing with some of the boys on the depot platform he tripped and fell over the tongue of the express truck, breaking both bones of his left forearm. The broken bones were set by Dr. Lloyd, and the young man is resting as easily as could be expected. This should be a warning to the numerous small boys who frequent the depot about the time of the approach of the evening train and engage in "hide and seek" and other games that are liable to prevent their notice of the train, and result in serious injury.

Jap Social and Reception.

The ladies of the Fort Pierce Improvement club will give a Japanese social and reception from 3 to 5:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, October 7th, at the Fort Pierce hotel. The public is cordially invited to attend this reception, and it is especially arranged at this hour so that the mothers and children may attend. The waiters will be attired in Japanese costumes. In evening a dance will be given for the young people.

Improvement Club Meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the Fort Pierce Improvement club will be held next Monday afternoon, September 25th, at 3:30 o'clock, in the first primary room of the school house. All stockholders are urged to be present, as the vote on the by-laws will be taken, and the same adopted at this meeting.

Returned from Hospital.

Dana Curry, the young man that was severely bitten by the shark some two weeks ago, and has since been in the St. Augustine hospital, returned to Fort Pierce last Friday, and is now around town on crutches. It is quite probable that the young man will entirely recover, not even suffering any lameness.

To be in good health this winter take a bottle of our Peptonized Beef Iron and Wine. Drug Store.